

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 8 and 9 and ADD new claim 15 in accordance with the following:

1-7 (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A method for transmitting data from communication terminals to a switching system via a packet-oriented communication network, comprising the steps of:

setting up a data format formed of substructural elements for a data transmission between a switching system and communication terminals, said communication terminals being connected to a packet oriented communication network via a hub, ~~said communication terminals further~~switching system being connected to ~~said switching system~~packet-oriented communication network via an access unit,

transmitting said data in a form of substructural elements to said hub via by a communication terminal,

inserting said substructural elements in-to into data packets via by said hub, transmitting said data packets to the access unit via the packet-oriented communication network,

extracting said substructural elements from said data packets via said access unit, and; forwarding said substructural elements to said switching system.

9. (currently amended) A method for transmitting data from a switching system to communication terminals via a packet-oriented communication network, comprising the steps of:

setting up a data format formed of substructural elements for a data transmission between a switching system and communication terminals, said communication terminals being connected to a packet oriented communication network via a hub, ~~said communication terminals further~~switching system being connected to ~~said switching system~~packet-oriented communication network via an access unit,

transmitting said data in a form of substructural elements to the access unit via said switching system,

inserting said substructural elements in-to into data packets via by said access unit, transmitting said data packets to the hub via the packet oriented communication network,

extracting said substructural elements from said data packets via said hub, and;
forwarding said substructural elements to a corresponding communication terminal.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein said data packets are structured as Internet Protocol data packets.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein each substructural element exhibit a cell header, said cell header storing a channel identifier for designating an association of said each substructural element with a communication terminal, said cell header further storing a length indicator for specifying a number of payload segments transmitted in said each substructural element.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein said substructural elements are structured according to an ATM data format in accordance with a convention known as Second ATM adaptation-adaptation layer.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of: arranging said data transmission and said substructural elements in a payload area of an Internet Protocol data packet such that a substructural element begins in a segment defined as a first payload segment of the Internet Protocol data packet.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of:

defining a pointer in said first payload segment for designating a start address of a first substructural element segment, said first substructural element located in the payload area of the Internet Protocol data packet.

15. (new) A method for transmitting data from communication terminals to a switching system via a packet-oriented communication network, comprising the steps of:

setting up a data format formed of substructural elements for a data transmission between a switching system and communication terminals, said communication terminals being connected to a packet oriented communication network via a hub, said switching system being connected to said packet-oriented communication network via an access unit separate from the hub,

transmitting said data in a form of substructural elements to said hub by a communication terminal,

inserting said substructural elements into data packets by said hub, such that substructural elements from different communication terminals are inserted into common data packets,

transmitting said data packets to the access unit via the packet-oriented communication network,

extracting said substructural elements from said data packets via said access unit, and forwarding said substructural elements to said switching system.